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**WOMAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS  
IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR  
SCAMMING ELDERLY FORT WORTH WOMAN**

United States Attorney Richard B. Roper announced that Nina Rajwani was sentenced yesterday by the honorable John McBryde, United States District Judge, to 10 years imprisonment, following Rajwani's conviction in December 2004 in U.S. District Court in Fort Worth, Texas. Following a two-day trial, and thirty minutes of deliberation, Rajwani was convicted by a federal jury on all three counts of wire fraud outlined in a superseding indictment. Rajwani, age 47, has been in federal custody since her arrest in September 2004, near Seattle, Washington, on charges outlined in a complaint filed in the Fort Worth Division of the Northern District of Texas.

Departing upwardly from the United States Sentencing Guidelines, Judge McBryde said that Rajwani's crimes were particularly egregious because she preyed upon vulnerable elderly women who were defrauded of their life's savings.

According to evidence presented at trial, an unknown male called the 90-year-old widowed victim in Fort Worth last summer and told her she had won a lottery. He told her she could increase her winnings by sending money to the lottery lawyer, defendant Nina Rajwani. After months of phone calls, the confused and vulnerable victim wired more than \$60,000 of her life's savings to a Washington State bank account in Rajwani's name. Rajwani was a Canadian citizen who would drive across the border into Washington State, and withdraw the monies in cash and cashier's checks from three different branches of Bank of America.

The widow's family learned of the scam and notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation who caught the defendant trying to cross the border into the United States,

in route to withdrawing more money. The names and addresses of other elderly victims from across the United States were contained in the defendant's purse, and other elderly victims were discovered after reviewing Rajwani's bank records. At trial, two of the elderly victims flew in from California and Michigan to testify as to their similar experiences, and their losses of more than \$70,000 between them.

U.S. Attorney Roper said, "This was a despicable crime and the stiff sentence imposed by Judge McBryde is well-deserved." Roper continued, "The defendant robbed the victims of their hard-earned security, dignity, independence and comfort, and took money that, at their ages, they do not have the ability to replace. If con-artists target the elderly, they can be sure we're targeting them."

U.S. Attorney Roper praised the excellent investigative work done by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Bret Helmer and Aisha Saleem.